



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

November 1, 2012

Dear NJVFC Provider:

Providers are reporting vaccine loss/waste due to Hurricane Sandy and the subsequent flooding and/or electrical power outages in several New Jersey counties. It is required by all NJVFC providers to have proper procedures in place for the handling and storage of vaccines in the event of a disaster or unexpected loss of your primary storage facility. This emergency procedure is a primary component of your detailed vaccine management plan. NJVFC encourages providers to have a robust vaccine management plan in place by supplying templates, evaluating provider's plans during compliance visits and providing guidance in ensuring your plan meets minimum guidelines. We do, however, acknowledge that natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy can test those plans and at times expose areas of weakness that may not be anticipated.

In reporting waste to NJVFC after Hurricane Sandy please include the following information in your response to the Program.

1. A brief narrative describing the events surrounding the vaccine waste and/or corrective action taken to limit the amount of vaccine wasted.
2. A completed "Emergency Response Worksheet" found at:
<http://www.immunize.org/handouts/vaccine-storage-handling.asp>

Please ensure you contact the vaccine manufacturers and supply the status (viable or not) on the worksheet. **DO NOT DISPOSE OF VACCINE UNTIL YOU SPEAK TO THE MANUFACTURER AND ARE ADVISED OF ITS VIABILITY.**

3. Complete the IMM39 (vaccine waste report/return label request) through NJIIS/IMODS and include a copy to the NJVFC Program.

Waste events related to Hurricane Sandy will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the program.

Sincerely,

Steven Bors, VFC Program Manager
Vaccines For Children Program